

## ABSTRACT

A water heater includes a tank and a jacket surrounding the tank. Between the tank and jacket is defined an annular space in which a seal is positioned. The seal extends between the tank and the jacket and defines a bottom of the annular space. The seal includes a depending flange that retains a fiberglass batt against the water tank so that the batt does not interfere with lowering the jacket around the tank. The seal also includes a plurality of arms that center and round out the jacket as it is lowered over the tank. A liquid-based insulation is pumped into the annular space under pressure, and the seal substantially prevents any of the insulation from leaking through the bottom of the annular seal. The arms may be progressively longer and/or thicker from the top down to permit some of the insulation to bypass the upper arms and fill the spaces between the arms.

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